



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 3, 2011

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES THREE MORE EVANSVILLE AREA INDIVIDUALS CHARGED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

*Most recent results from U.S. Attorney's comprehensive Violent Crime Initiative*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

EVANSVILLE – Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today three more Evansville area indictments as part of the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative. William Wind, 36, and Kenneth Schmitt, 26, both of Evansville, and Tyrone Porter, 21, of Mount Vernon, were all charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

"We are here today to repeat a simple message," Hogsett said. "If you illegally possess firearms, or if you misuse them in criminal activity, we will work with local law enforcement to find you, arrest you, and then prosecute you to the full extent of federal law."

- It is alleged that on September 4, 2011, Wind, of Evansville, possessed a firearm after having been convicted of numerous felonies in addition to a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.
- Schmitt, also of Evansville, is alleged to have possessed an AR-15 rifle on December 21, 2010, after having been convicted of multiple prior offenses in Vanderburgh County.
- Porter, from nearby Mount Vernon, is similarly alleged to have possessed a firearm on July 12, 2011, after having been convicted of a number of felonies.

These arrests and indictments follow investigations by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, Posey County Narcotics Unit, Mount Vernon Police Department, and Evansville Police Department.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry D. Glickman, who is prosecuting the Wind and Porter cases for the government, Wind faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 maximum fine, if convicted on all charges. If convicted, Porter faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

According to Special Assistant United States Attorney Levi J. Burkett, who is prosecuting Schmitt on behalf of the government and also serves as a Deputy Vanderburgh County Prosecutor, the defendant faces up to ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine if he is convicted.

Today's charges are the latest in a string of gun-related prosecutions undertaken by the United States Attorney's Office as part of its Violent Crime Initiative. Announced by Hogsett in March of this year, the initiative represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

"When we announced the Violent Crime Initiative in March, we made clear that we would be working with federal and local law enforcement partners to target those who illegally possess and misuse firearms," Hogsett said. "These indictments are yet more results in this ongoing effort."

Already this year, the VCI has caused a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 78 thus far in 2011. Major drug trafficking indictments are up 100% from where they were two years ago. And the United States Attorney's Office has seized more than \$4.8 million in assets from drug traffickers this year, which is nearly seven times more than was seized in 2010.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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